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WAR DEPARTMENT.
REPORT
OF VESSELS SUNK AND BURNT
IN THE PAMUNKEY RIVER,

BY CAPTAIN CHAS. S. CARRINGTON, A. Q. M.,

UNDER THE ORDERS OF

GENERAL JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON AND OTHERS.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
Department, of Justice,
Richmond, March 10, 1863. }

To the Congress of the Confederate States:

The paper hereto attached, marked exhibit A, contains a list of vessels which were seized by order of General Joseph E. Johnston, and used to transport provisions whilst the army was at Yorktown, and, subsequently, when the army fell back towards Richmond, they were either sunk in the Pamunkey river, to obstruct it, or were burnt to prevent them from falling into the hands of the enemy. It contains, also, the names of the several owners of the vessels, when known, together with the valuation of each vessel and the names of the persons who valued them. There is appended to it a copy of the certificate of Charles S. Carrington, Major and Quartermaster.

Under the general principles announced in my opinion to the Secretary of War, on the 17th of October, 1862, the government is responsible to the owners of the vessels for their reasonable value. I allow the claims, therefore, except in those cases where the owners are unknown, or their christian names are not given, or the value is not fixed, viz: Mary Elizabeth, Hannah Ann, Planter, Reliance, Starlight, J. R. Baylis, owners of which are unknown; and Palestine, an unnamed vessel, and California, owned respectively by Thomas Cloyd and Blassingham, whose christian names are not given; and the T. & G. Fair, Mary Layster, R. P. Wallar, Way, Little Addie, Mirage, and Mary Alice, which are without valuation, and are not excluded by reason of their being in either of the other two classes.

T. H. WATTS,
Attorney General.

EXHIBIT A.

STATEMENT showing Vessels burnt and sunk by Captain Charles S. Carrington, A. Q. M., under the orders of General Joseph E. Johnston, commanding Confederate States Army.

NAMES OF VESSEL.	NAME OF OWNERS AS REPORTED.	WHEN DESTROYED.	WHERE DESTROYED.	HOW DESTROYED.	VALUATION OF VESSEL.	BY WHOM VALUED.	VALUATION OF VESSEL.	REMARKS.
Ornament.....	Geo. H. Crittenden & Christopher Post.	Bet. May 5, & 10, 1862.	At Cock's Island.	Sunk.	\$1,100	Capt Wm. L. Maury, C. S. N. & Capt. Garlick, citizen.	\$1,100	In Service of Government.
Friendship.....	Allman & Wells.	"	"	"	500	Wm. Smith, T. Gilliam, & J. Green.	500	"
Wm. Edward.....	Joel & Wm. Thomas.	"	"	"	700	"	700	"
Josephine.....	Wm. Hansky.	"	"	"	2,200	"	2,200	"
Wm. Shanberg.....	Wm. C. Messick & Edward F. Phillips.	"	"	"	1,000	"	1,000	"
Diana Hopkins.....	Edward F. Phillips.	"	"	"	500	"	500	"
American Coaster.	Robert W. Crockett.	"	"	"	600	"	600	"
Experiment.....	Wm. C. Messick.	"	"	"	800	Wm. L. Maury, C. S. N. & C. S. Carrington, A. Q. M.	800	"
Mary Elizabeth.....	Owner not known.	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Hannah Ann.....	Owner not known.	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
David Vaname.....	Ornelius V. Johnson.	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Klag William.....	Am. Sayre & Jas. W. Fleming.	"	"	"	1,200	Cpt. Garlick, citizen, & White, A. Q. M.	1,200	"
J. & G. Fair.....	Wm. Lee.	"	"	"	2,000	"	2,000	"
J. T. Conner.....	John Bagby.	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Princess.....	Wm. Lee.	"	"	"	800	Wm. L. Maury, C. S. N. & C. S. Carrington, A. Q. M.	800	"
Sarah Ann.....	Wm. S. Ward.	"	"	"	500	Opts. Wm. L. Maury, C. S. N. & C. S. Carrington, A. Q. M.	500	"
Mary Loyster.....	T. J. Bland.	"	"	"	500	Opts. Wm. L. Maury, C. S. N. & C. S. Carrington, A. Q. M.	500	"
R. P. Waller.....	F. W. Gilliam.	"	"	"	500	Opts. Wm. L. Maury, C. S. N. & C. S. Carrington, A. Q. M.	500	"
Planter.....	Owner not known.	"	"	"	500	Opts. Wm. L. Maury, C. S. N. & C. S. Carrington, A. Q. M.	500	"
Palestine.....	Thorpe.	"	"	"	500	Opts. Wm. L. Maury, C. S. N. & C. S. Carrington, A. Q. M.	500	"
Way.....	Gresham & Baphy.	"	"	"	500	Opts. Wm. L. Maury, C. S. N. & C. S. Carrington, A. Q. M.	500	"
California.....	Blossingham.	"	"	"	500	Wm. Smith, T. Gilliam and J. Green.	500	"
Caroline Baker.....	F. & Christopher Post.	"	"	"	1,000	"	1,000	"
Reliance.....	Owner not known.	"	"	"	1,000	"	1,000	"
Name not known.	Cloyd.	"	"	"	1,000	"	1,000	"
Cladio.....	M. J. Williams.	"	"	"	1,000	Opts. R. P. Archer, A. Q. M. & C. S. Carrington, A. Q. M.	1,000	"
Starlight.....	Owner not known.	"	"	"	1,000	"	1,000	"
Little Adelle.....	John Montgomery.	"	"	"	1,000	"	1,000	"
Jenny Lind.....	J. F. New & Co.	"	"	"	1,000	"	1,000	"
Star.....	S. P. Noon.	"	"	"	200	Capt. Garlick, & Wm. Martin, citizens.	200	"

EXHIBIT A--(Continued.)

NAMES OF VESSEL.	NAME OF OWNERS AS REPORTED.	WHEN DESTROYED.	WHERE DESTROYED.	HOW DESTROYED.	VALUATION OF VESSEL.	BY WHOM VALUED.	VALUATION OF VESSEL.	BY WHOM VALUED.	VALUATION ADOPTED.	REMARKS.
Mary Baxter	C. W. Parks.	17th of May.	Bassell's L.	Burnt.	\$1,200	Capt. Kirwan, str. Logan, & T. D. Littlepage, citizen.	\$1,200		\$1,200	In Service of Government.
William Francis...	C. Coleman.	"	"	"	2,500	"	2,500		600	"
Francis & Theodore	James Arrington.	"	"	"	600	"	600		90	"
Betsy Richards...	Washington Smith.	"	"	"	900	"	900		600	"
Virginia.....	E. Lawson.	"	"	"	600	"	600		500	"
J. R. Baylis.....	Owner not known.	"	"	"	500	"	500		1,200	"
Union.....	Benj. F. Gresham.	"	"	"	1,200	"	1,200		600	"
William & Wesley.	J. D. Groomonger.	"	"	"	600	"	600		1,100	"
Ann Bell.....	Wm. Thomas.	"	"	"	1,100	"	1,100		1,300	"
Alert.....	A. West.	"	"	"	1,300	"	1,300		1,800	"
James Braden....	S. Kimble.	"	"	"	1,800	"	1,800		2,000	"
Oxford.....	Claybrook & Dobyns.	"	"	"	1,200	"	1,200		250	"
Wild Pigeon.....	Wm. Messick.	"	"	"	2,000	"	2,000		600	"
Sea Witch.....	James Robins.	"	"	"	600	"	600		1,900	"
John Allen.....	S. Guy.	"	"	"	250	"	250		1,000	"
Little Wave.....	Thomas Hibble.	"	"	"	600	"	600		1,000	"
Mirage.....	Es. Wm. Johnson, dec	"	"	Sk or bt	1,200	"	1,200		1,000	"
Sarah Washington	Moore & Elkiston.	"	"	"	1,000	"	1,000		1,000	"
Mary Alice.....	Capt. Gage.	"	"	"	1,000	"	1,000		1,000	"
Paragon.....	Es. Wm. Johnson, dec	"	"	"	1,000	"	1,000		1,000	"
Margaret Shultz...	Harrn & Ballown.	"	"	"	1,000	"	1,000		1,000	"
Watchman.....	John E. Brown.	"	"	"	1,000	"	1,000		1,000	"
Wave.....	R. Howard.	"	"	"	1,000	"	1,000		1,000	"
Walton.....	John Waring.	"	"	"	1,000	"	1,000		1,000	"
O. Whitmond.	John Wright.	"	"	"	1,000	"	1,000		1,000	"
Wm. S. Ryland....	Wm. Berkley.	"	"	"	2,200	"	2,200		1,700	"
Jefferson	Garefoster & Braumly	"	"	"	2,250	"	2,250		1,875	"

The above named vessels were employed by the government during the occupation of the Peninsula by the army of the Confederate States, and on its evacuation were filled with stores belonging to the government, General Joseph E. Johnston commanding, etc., ordered me to send these vessels up the Pamunkey river, and after discharging their cargoes at the White House, and filling a *portion of them* with sand and stone, to sink the same in the channel of this stream in such a way as to obstruct the passage of the gun boats of the enemy. He also ordered that a portion of these vessels should be sunk in the draw of the bridge at the White House, and again, that further efforts should be made by me to obstruct the Pamunkey river above the White House, by sinking another portion of these vessels, and if necessary to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy, that they should be destroyed. The vessels were sunk at "Cook's Island," in obedience to the first named order. This obstruction delayed the approach of the enemy, and time was thus given to save the cargoes of other vessels, delayed by head winds in their arrival at the White House. The vessels burnt at Cumberland, were destroyed to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy, whose near approach, together with their being abandoned by their crews, prevented their escape; which was, also, the case with the vessels sunk at Garlick's landing. Those destroyed at the White House were sunk in the draw of the bridge. The vessels sunk and burnt at and near Bassell's landing and New Castle, were either used successfully in obstructing the channel of the Pamunkey river above the White House, or destroyed to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy.

The enemy reached these landings a few hours after these vessels were destroyed. The cargoes of these vessels were saved with the exception of a quantity of forage and some grain sacks, which it was impossible to secure, because of the retreat of our army beyond the safe reach of its transportation. The rapid advance of the enemy, the want of labor, the desertion of crews and the necessity of my presence at different points prevented the valuation of all these vessels, and rendered an informal valuation of others necessary. I also failed to obtain reliable information of the names of the owners of these vessels, and from the above mentioned causes, and from the probable loss of pencilled memoranda made at the moment. I am not confident that all of the vessels destroyed by me under the orders, during the retreat from Yorktown, are reported in the above list.

(Signed,)

CHAS. S. CARRINGTON

Major and Quartermaster.



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